AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1.   (Currently amended) A merchandise transaction method ~~on on-line shopping~~ in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

~~a first step in which~~ receiving, by an intermediary, ~~receives~~ information about an electronic mall keeper to which a user desires transaction, information about commodities to be purchased by said user, and a packet and executing ~~executes~~ an order and payment of commodities to an electronic mall keeper in behalf of said user; and

~~a second step in which~~ receiving, by said intermediary, ~~receives~~ a secret decryption key for said packet transmitted from said user in exchange of said commodities and then obtaining ~~obtains~~ a credit card number of said user by deciphering the packet cipher.

Claim 2.   (Currently amended) A merchandise transaction method ~~on on-line shopping~~ in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

at a first transaction between a user which desires to purchase commodities and an intermediary, ~~a first step in which~~ receiving, by an intermediary, ~~receives~~ information about an electronic mall keeper to which said user desires transaction, information about commodities to be purchased by said user, and a packet and executing ~~executes~~ an order and payment of commodities to an electronic mall keeper in behalf of said user;

~~a second step in which~~ receiving, by said intermediary, ~~receives~~ a secret decryption key for said packet transmitted from said user in exchange of said commodities and then obtaining ~~obtains~~ a credit card number of said user by deciphering the packet cipher;

~~a third step in which~~ recording, by said intermediary, ~~records~~ a credit card number of said user acquired through decryption of said packet;

at the second or later transaction between said user which desires to purchase commodities and said intermediary, ~~a fourth step in which~~ <u>receiving, by</u> said intermediary, ~~receives~~ information about an electronic mall keeper to which said user desires transaction and information about commodities to be purchased by said user and then <u>executing</u> ~~executes~~ an order and payment of said commodities to an electronic mall keeper in behalf of said user; and

~~a fifth step in which~~ <u>acquiring, by</u> said intermediary, ~~acquires~~ a credit card number of said user based on the <u>intermediary recording</u> ~~record in said third step~~.

Claim 3.   (Currently amended) A merchandise transaction method in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

~~a user merchandise ordering step in which~~ <u>ordering, by</u> a user, ~~orders~~ commodities by transmitting information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about commodities to be purchased to an intermediary;

~~a packet transmission step in which~~ <u>transmitting, by</u> said user, ~~transmits~~ a packet regarding the merchandise order in the previous step to said intermediary;

~~an intermediary merchandise ordering step in which~~ <u>ordering, by</u> said intermediary, ~~orders~~ commodities by specifying itself as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper, based on the information received <u>said packet</u> ~~in the previous step~~;

~~a credit card number notification step in which~~ <u>notifying, by</u> said intermediary, ~~notifies~~ said electronic mall keeper of a credit card number of said intermediary;

~~an electronic mall keeper merchandise shipping step in which~~ <u>shipping, by</u> said electronic mall keeper, ~~ships~~ said commodities to said intermediary;

~~an intermediary merchandise shipping step in which~~ shipping, by said intermediary, ~~ships~~ said commodities to said user;

~~a secret decryption key transmission step in which~~ transmitting, by said user, ~~transmits~~ a secret decryption key for said packet to said intermediary, in exchange of the commodities received from said intermediary ~~in the previous step~~; ~~and~~

~~a cash and commission receiving step in which~~ acquiring, by said intermediary, ~~acquires~~ a credit card number by deciphering the previously received packet cipher with the secret decryption key from said user ~~acquired in the precious step~~; and

said intermediary receiving ~~then receives~~ a cash and commission of the commodities with the credit card number.

Claims 4. (Currently amended) A merchandise transaction method ~~on on-line shopping~~ in an on-line shopping system, comprising:

~~a transaction-count decision step of~~ deciding whether or not a transaction between a user which wants to purchase a commodity and an intermediary is for the first time;

~~a user merchandise ordering step in which~~ ordering, by said user, orders the commodity by transmitting information about an electronic mall keeper desired by said user and information about a commodity to be purchased to said intermediary when it is decided that the transaction between said user and said intermediary is for the first time ~~in the previous step~~;

~~an intermediary merchandise ordering step in which~~ ordering, by said intermediary, ~~orders~~ the commodity by specifying itself as a merchandise shipping destination to an electronic mall keeper, based on the sets of information received ~~in the previous step~~;

~~a credit card number notification step in which~~ notifying, by said intermediary, ~~notifies~~ the credit card number of said intermediary to said electronic mall keeper at the first transaction between the user and the intermediary;

~~an electronic mall merchandise shipping step in which~~ shipping, by said electronic mall keeper, ~~ships~~ said commodity to said intermediary ~~at the first step~~ between said user and said intermediary;

~~an intermediary merchandise shipping step in which~~ shipping, by said intermediary, ~~ships~~ said commodity to said user at the first step between said user and said intermediary;

~~a secret decryption key transmission step in which~~ transmitting, by said user, ~~transmits~~ said secret decryption key for the packet to said intermediary, in exchange of the commodity received ~~in the previous step~~;

~~a cash and commission receiving step in which~~ acquiring, by said intermediary, ~~acquires~~ the credit card number by deciphering the cipher of said packet ~~received in the previous step~~ with the secret decryption key ~~acquired in the previous step and then receives~~

said intermediary receiving a cash and commission for said commodity with said credit card number;

~~a credit card number recording step in which~~ recording, by said intermediary, ~~records~~ corresponding information for the purpose of the second or later transaction to said user, said corresponding information being used to uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user ~~obtained in the previous step~~;

~~a second or later transaction user merchandise ordering step in which~~ ordering, by said user, ~~orders~~ the commodity by transmitting information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a desired commodity to said intermediary when it is decided that a

transaction between the user and the intermediary is the second time or later in the previous step;

a second or later transaction intermediary merchandise ordering step in which ordering, by said intermediary, orders said commodity by specifying said user as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper, based on the information received in the previous step;

a second or later transaction credit card number notification step in which notifying, by said intermediary, notifies the credit card number of said intermediary to said electronic mall keeper at the second or later transaction between the user and the intermediary;

a second and later transaction electronic mall keeper merchandise shipping step in which shipping, by said electronic mall keeper, ships said commodity to said user at the second or later transaction between said user and said intermediary;

a merchandise arrival notification step in which notifying, by said user, which has received said commodity in the previous step, notifies said intermediary of arrival of said commodity; and

a second or later transaction cash and commission receiving step in which receiving, by said intermediary, receives a cash and commission of said commodity with the credit card number of said user recorded in the previous step at the second or later transaction between said user and said intermediary.

Claim 5.   (Currently amended) An intermediary information processing system which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system,

comprising:

a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a commodity to be purchased;

a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise order by said <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ order receiver;

a <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ order transmitter for ordering said commodity by specifying ~~said~~ <u>an</u> intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic small keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver;

a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for a merchandise order by said merchandise order transmitter;

a <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said electronic mall keeper;

a <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ shipper for shipping the commodity received by said merchandise receiver to said user;

a secret decryption key receiver for receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity; and

a cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key receiver and then receiving a cash and commission of the commodity with the credit card number.

Claim 6.   (Currently amended) An intermediary information processing system which

intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system,

comprising:

a transaction-count decider for deciding whether ~~or not~~ a transaction to a user which

wants to purchase a commodity is for the first time;

a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said

commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and

information about a commodity to be purchased;

a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise

order by said <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ order receiver when said transaction-count decider

decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

a <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ order transmitter for ordering said commodity to said

electronic mall keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver, by

specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-

count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time or by specifying said

user as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-count decider decides that

the transaction to said user is not for the first time;

a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit

card number of said intermediary to pay for a merchandise order by

said merchandise order transmitter;

a <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said

electronic mall keeper, with said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination;

a <u>merchandise</u> ~~merchandize~~ shipper for shipping the commodity received by said

merchandise receiver to said user;

a secret decryption key receiver for receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from

said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity when said transaction-count decider

decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

an initial cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering

the packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key

receiver and then receiving a cash and commission of the commodity with the credit card

number;

a credit card number recorder for recording corresponding information to pay for the

second or later transaction to said user when said transaction count decider decides that the

transaction to said user is for the first time, said corresponding information being used to

uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user acquired by said initial

cash/commission receiver;

a merchandise arrival notification receiver for receiving notification of arrival of the

commodity dispatched from said electronic mall keeper to said user when said transaction

count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time; and

a second or later transaction cash/commission receiver for receiving a cash and

commission for the commodity with the credit card number of said user recorded by said

credit card number recorder when said transaction count decider decides that the transaction

to said user is not for the first time.

Claim 7.   (Currently amended) A recording medium on which a program is recorded,

wherein said program realizes an intermediary information processing system which

intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system as

functions including:

a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a commodity to be purchased;

a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the commodity order by said merchandise ~~merchandize~~ order receiver;

a merchandise ~~merchandize~~ order transmitter for ordering said commodity by specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination to said electronic mall keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver;

a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for the commodity order by said merchandise order transmitter;

a merchandise ~~merchandize~~ receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said electronic mall keeper;

a merchandise ~~merchandize~~ shipper for shipping the commodity received by said merchandise receiver to said user which ordered said commodity;

a secret decryption key receiver for receiving said secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity; and

a cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key receiver and then receiving a cash and commission for the commodity with the credit card number.

Claim 8.　　(Currently amended) A recording medium on which a program is recorded,

wherein said program realizes an intermediary information processing system which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line shopping system as functions including:

a transaction-count decider for deciding whether or not a transaction to a user which wants to purchase a commodity is for the first time;

a merchandise order receiver for receiving an order of a commodity from a user, said commodity order including information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about a commodity to be purchased;

a packet receiver for receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise order by said merchandise merchandize order receiver when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

a merchandise merchandize order transmitter for ordering said commodity to said electronic mall keeper, based on information received by said merchandise order receiver, by specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time or by specifying said user as a merchandise shipping destination when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time;

a credit card number notifier for notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to pay for a merchandise order by said merchandise order transmitter;

a merchandise merchandize receiver for receiving the commodity shipped by said electronic mall keeper, with said intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination;

a merchandise merchandize shipper for shipping the commodity received by said

merchandise receiver to said user which ordered said commodity;

a secret decryption key receiver for receiving said secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of the commodity when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

an initial cash/commission receiver for acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret decryption key received by said secret decryption key receiver and then receiving a cash and commission of the commodity with the credit card number;

a credit card number recorder for recording corresponding information for the purpose of the second or later transaction when said transaction count decider decides that the transaction to said user is for the first time, said corresponding information being used to uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user acquired by said initial cash/commission receiver;

a merchandise arrival notification receiver for receiving notification of arrival of the commodity dispatched from said electronic mall keeper to said user when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time; and

a second or later transaction cash/commission receiver for receiving a cash and commission for the commodity with the credit card number of said user recorded by said credit card number recorder when said transaction-count decider decides that the transaction to said user is not for the first time.

Claim 9.   (Currently amended) A recording medium on which a control program is stored, wherein said control program controls an information processing system of an

intermediary which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line

shopping system, said control program making said information processing device execute

the following steps of:

receiving a merchandise order including information about a desired electronic mall

keeper and information about an item to be purchased from a user;

receiving a packet transmitted from said user in said merchandise order;

ordering an item by specifying an intermediary as a merchandise shipping destination

to said electronic mall keeper, based on the information about said merchandise order;

notifying said electronic mall keeper of a credit card number of said intermediary to

pay for said merchandise order;

receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of the

ordered item; and

acquiring the credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the secret

decryption key and then receiving a cash and commission of said item with the credit card

number.

Claim 10.   (Currently amended) A recording medium on which a control program is

stored, wherein said control program controls an information processing system of an

intermediary which intermediates between a user and an electronic mall keeper in an on-line

shopping system, said control program making said information processing device execute

the following steps of:

deciding whether or not a transaction to a user which wants to purchase an item is for

the first time;

receiving a merchandise order from a user, said merchandise order including

information about a desired electronic mall keeper and information about an item to be

purchased;

receiving a packet transmitted by said user in the merchandise order when it is

decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

ordering said item to said electronic mall keeper, based on information about said

received merchandise order, by specifying said intermediary as a merchandise shipping

destination when it is decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time or by

specifying said user as a merchandise shipping destination when it is decided that the

transaction to said user is not for the first time;

notifying said electronic mall keeper of the credit card number of said intermediary to

pay for said merchandise order;

receiving a secret decryption key transmitted from said user, in exchange of reception of

the item when it is decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time;

acquiring a credit card number by deciphering the packet cipher with the received

secret decryption key and then receiving a cash and commission for the item in the first

transaction with the credit card number;

recording corresponding information for the second or later transaction to said user

when it is decided that the transaction to said user is for the first time, said corresponding

information being used to uniquely identify said user with the credit card number of said user

acquired in said first transaction;

receiving notification of arrival of the item dispatched from said electronic mall

keeper to said user when it is decided that the transaction to said user is not for the first time;

and

receiving a cash and commission for the item with the recorded credit card number of said user when it is decided that the transaction to said user is not for the first time.

Claim 11.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.

Claim 12.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said intermediary and shipping said commodities from said intermediary to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.

Claim 13.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising said intermediary recording said credit card number.

Claim 14.   (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

determining whether said transaction is a second transaction from said user;

skipping said receiving of said secret decryption key; and

reading said recorded credit card number.

Claim 15.   (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving a notification from said user of receipt of said commodities before reading said recorded credit card number.

Claim 16.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said intermediary executes an order and payment of commodities on behalf of the user comprises ordering said commodities from said electronic mall keeper.

Claim 17.   (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said intermediary executes an order and payment of commodities on behalf of the user, the method further comprising notifying a credit card number of said intermediary to said electronic mall keeper.

Claim 18.   (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said intermediary executes an order and payment of commodities on behalf of the user, the method further comprising receiving said commodities from said electronic mall keeper and shipping said commodities to said user.

Claim 19.   (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.

Claim 20.   (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising shipping said commodities from said electronic mall keeper to said intermediary and shipping said commodities from said intermediary to said user before receiving said secret decryption key.